

An Essay
on

The duties of the Physician

Respectfully Submitted
To the Faculty of the
Homoeopathic Medical College
of Pennsylvania

by
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In the language of our great Master
the first and sole duty of the physician
is to restore health to the sick.

To live for others and not for himself
seems to be a sacrifice which he is bound
to make. Therefore to make himself
worthy and desirable in his labor of
love to suffering humanity. For to those
his mission belongs, he must be ever-
ready to make a tender of his repose
and comfort for that of others.

Is the consideration one of an ordinary
character? The answer is in the negative
No. It is saving the life and restoring
the health of a fellow being.

The healing art is no common science, it
is not mastered in a day. Many years
are required. and then our work is
just begun. Of all departments of
knowledge medicine is the most comprehensive.

Soul, life, and body. With^{the} external world
are its subjects. No other science has
any such pretensions they are more
partial and incomplete. In the study
of medicine in all its various departments
nature unfolds to the inquiring student
its beautiful sublime and complicated
workmanship. But soon to say my
ways are past finding out. Such a
science may well oppress the eye with
grandeur. It is the oldest of arts the
last to have one the most comprehensive and
of all pursuits the most humane.
In the language of another - Medicine is
the Child of Time. and must
advance from one stage of perfection
untill another. Till time shall be no
more. Though we should never feel
a pulse nor listen to the touching
story of the invalid. Medicine would

Still be able to absorb all our faculties.
But to return. The duties of the ~~man~~ ^{man}
of medicine coincide with the most
sacred laws of religion and philanthropy.
And whoever embraces the medical profession
should expect for some years to bestow
the fruits of his knowledge and skill
upon those who have but little to repay.
Therefore it requires a mind elevated
far above ~~the grasp~~ ^{the grasp} of
the Almighty ^{dollar} alone. His true reward
consists not ^{in dollars} and cents, but something
of a more beautiful and sublime a
nature. His professional duties always
harmonize with that of truth and
religion. And it is for him to
disseminate good and alleviate suffering
whenever an opportunity is presented.

And his opportunities may be stiled
legion. For his visits attention and
Medical Skill are demanded among
all grades and constitutions.

And for the above consideration it
behoves him to be awake to his duty
to be ever ready to attend the calls
of his time honored profession. To make
no difference between rich and poor-
high or low. But in the exercise
of his art. Must regard his fellow
and not the mere toys of earth.

Can gold repay him for the responsibility
deep anxiety of mind and midnight
toils, I answer No. What is the
treasures of earth compared to the
tears thanks & outbursts of gratitude
of a relieved sufferer.

How beautiful and grand to the true
minded Physician, is the soul stirring
gratitude poured forth from the
bosom of his restored patient.
The Doctor is pointed to as the
man that put new life into his
veins and restored him to his anxious
friends. The man to arrest disease
to call back the departing spirit
to restore the babe to its Mother—the
parent to the Children over whom
the dread doom of orphanage was
~~hanging~~ hanging. Where is the man that
would not find a rich treasure
of enjoyment in such a labor of
benevolence. The Physician that
could not is unworthy the the
title he bears. The real happiness

That such thoughts would afford me
would far surpass the value of the
few dollars I might receive from
the heartless Muses—as a reward
for my skill and labors.

I do not wish to be understood that
the Physician must live upon thanks
and gratitude only the labourer—
is worthy of his hire. But to make
money the sole object of his profession
is the idea I detest.

The Physician should ^{proceed} in his practice
with conscientiousness deep research
and knowledge. He will then be
able to do justice to his patient,
himself, and to the profession.

For in many cases his art will fail
the tender bud is nipped, manhood has

received to severe a shock, the
machinery of old age is worn out.
Therefore at all ages we must die
But if we are master of the science we
propose and nature sinks with all our
assistance to the contrary. We are not
to blame The internal judge will
remain silent and ~~therefore~~ not punish
us with tormenting reproaches.

A great deal of literary knowledge and
profound medical skill is expected
of the Physician. by the people with
whom he mingles he will be asked
many questions and ready answers
are expected. Every valetudinarian
hypochondriac and hysterical person
looks to the Doctor for a full explanation
of their troubles and for immediate relief

Unfortunate is the young Physician
that has to build his reputation on
Such Patients. Sunk he must.
But knowledge and ^{skill} alone are not
sufficient. The conduct and gentlemanly
 deportment should be of that kind
that would command respect and win
the admiration of all. Many are
incapable of judging in any other
way. And by that ^{step} his science will
be measured and his skill appreciated
accordingly.

The external appearance of the Physician
should partake of neatness cleanliness and
order. What is more horrible and
disgusting to a delicate and sensitive
Lady than a filthy Doctor. With the
entrance to the Alimentary Canal

Crowded with the noxious Weed, his breath
polluted and to the smell ^{horrible}. The Symphysis
of the inferior Maxillary well plastered with
its delightful essence. and his shirt bosom
similar in appearance and partaking strongly
of the Compostical. Such a sight is enough
to antedote any well selected Homoeopathic
Remedy. What would act save thirty grains
of Calomel with double the amount of
Jalap. While such a disgusting sight
and disagreeable odour is present in the
Sick Chamber.

The physician should be careful to
deserve a good reputation. his Calling
is an honorable one his Mission is among
the suffering and the dying. In his
hands is trusted the life of an immortal
being. Such bring the facts. What kind

~~What~~ of a man should he be, again
I answer. A philanthropist a gentleman
of honor and one hugging close to his
bosome Religion & truth.

To no one is public opinion so important
as to the physician, he is the servant
of the people. And they will decide
what shall be his station. He must
therefore be anxious to win an enviable
reputation. for in that depends to a
great extent his success in business.

The young Physician commencing practice
starting in life among ~~strangers~~ ^{have many things} to
contend with and I imagine will find
many obstacles to encounter. But with
a character as above described
combined with honorable dealing
close attention to business.

and always found in the office and at his books when not on duty will overcome all obstacles outside all opposition and bring him out more than conqueror.

The physician in his relation to his colleagues should develop a character honorable to himself to his fellow and to the profession. What is more revolting and mixed with more disgust to a man of honor than to hear a physician who knows the difficulties of the art judge their colleagues with severity and harshness. Or disclose their faults and try to raise themselves by lowering others. It is a practice which I am sorry to acknowledge is practiced to a very great extent in the medical

profession. We be to the Doctor that expects to build up his name and gain a reputation by Egotism, and abuse of his Colleague. We is a curse to himself a disgrace to the profession and a vagrant to Society.

Permit me for moment to describe the Self converted egotist entering the Sick Room. He enters like a messenger of death. With his gloomy countenance streaked equal to that of a stovepipe Parson of the School of Calvin he walks the room rubbing his hands to excite Caloric reminding me of an excited Class Leader. an occasional sigh escapes his sanctified lips he feels the pulse gives a knowing look prescribes and leaves. With the unproprio-

upon the patients mind, that he must die. Another of a different Collier makes his appearance on a dashing Steed. With all the foolery upon his person that foolery and fashion can invent. He enters with all the airs of a french dancing Master. full of politeness and vain Conversation. He endeavours to carry the idea with the attendants that all Medical Knowledge and practical Skill rested within his Encephalon and without his attention death would soon come to the relief of the suffering patient. Enough is said on that point to convey the idea I wish to divulge.

But one word in regard to the Physician who is backed with good common sense

He understands his profession is a good
judge of human nature he comes at the
first call makes his appearance at the
the house of suffering speaks in a polite
manner to all he meets. is shown to the
room where his presence is needed he
enters in a very different manner
from either of the two, before mentioned
his very appearance and manners command
respect and confidence. he seats
himself commences a familiar conversation
After he has been seated a sufficient
length of time for his patient to get
clear of the excitement caused by his
presence. he makes his diagnosis prescribes
and leaves. What is the result he is
looked ^{upon} as a man of honor a Physician and
a Gentleman. In conclusion let me

Say it is the Physician's duty to
fear God. And attend to his own
business my word for it success will
attend is labor.